

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 4556

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, MILI, MPOL, PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: UK AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON NATO STANDARDIZATION

REF: A. STATE 200959 DTG 222356Z AUG 75

B. STATE 176498 DTG 252330Z JUL 75

SUMMARY: AMB. BRUCE'S INITIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH AMB. PECK (UK) ON STANDARDIZATION WERE FRUITFUL AND MARKED BY RECEPTIVE UK ATTITUDE. PECK SUPPORTED NAC DISCUSSIONS AND SUBSEQUENT FORMATION OF STEERING COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE ALL ALLIES. HE SAW SOME HOPE FRANCE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN SUBSTANTIVE WORK AND CONSIDERED FRENCH AMB. DE ROSE AS HAVING THE CENTRAL ROLE IN BRINGING FRANCE INTO STANDARDIZATION FOLD. FOR THIS REASON, PECK FELT US SHOULD CONSIDER ADJUSTING TIMING OF NAC INTERVENTION TO ALLOW DE ROSE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY TO ENLIST SUPPORT IN PARIS. (DEROSE WILL BE ABSENT UNTIL ABOUT SEPTEMBER 8) PECK ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT WE NOT TRY IN ANY WAY TO GET FRANCE INVOLVED IN DPC FORCE PLAN-
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NING BUSINESS, SUCH AS PROPOSED SPRING REVIEW. HE ALSO

RECOMMENDED THAT WE MENTION THE FORTHCOMING STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE AT A PERMREPS' LUNCH IN MID-SEPTEMBER AND THAT WE INCLUDE AMB. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) IN OUR CONSULTATIONS. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORITY TO CONSULT WITH DE STAERCKE FOLLOWING THIS RETURN ABOUT SEPTEMBER 8. END SUMMARY.

1. AMB BRUCE CALLED ON AMB PECK (UK) AUG 27 TO DISCUSS STANDARDIZATION ALONG LINES ADVANCED REF A. IN GENERAL, PECK WAS RECEPTIVE AND INDICATED CONSIDERABLE UK SUPPORT FOR THIS US INITIATIVE. PECK'S COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC POINTS ARE SET FORTH IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

2. STEERING COMMITTEE. PECK WAS ANXIOUS TO CONFIRM THAT US SAW PARTICIPATION IN STEERING COMMITTEE EXTENDING TO ALL ALLIES. AFTER BEING REASSURED THIS WAS THE CASE, AND THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD INVOLVE PRODUCER AND CONSUMER NATIONS, HE SUPPORTED NAC ESTABLISHMENT OF STEERING COMMITTEE WITH COMPOSITION ALONG LINES PARA 8 REF A. PECK WAS NOT PLEASED THAT DSYG PANSO WOULD BE IN CHAIR, BUT AGREED THAT NO ONE ELSE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. IN ANY CASE, HE NOTED THAT STEERING COMMITTEE PROBABLY WOULD FORM SUB-GROUPS TO ACTUALLY DO THE WORK AND THAT SOME LESS INTERESTED NATIONS, SUCH AS ICELAND, LUXEMBOURG AND MAYBE PORTUGAL MIGHT DROP OUT.

3. FRANCE. PECK AGREED THAT FRANCE SHOULD BE GIVEN EVERY POSSIBLE ENCOURAGEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN NAC EFFORTS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION. HE SUPPORTED EARLY US/FRANCE CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AND REMARKED THAT FRENCH AMB DE ROSE WOULD BE THE KEY TO GETTING FRANCE ONBOARD. PECK CAUTIONED THAT WE MUST HANDLE THE FRENCH WITH GREAT CARE AND "HOOK THEM GENTLY". HE SAW DANGER THAT AN OVER-ZEALOUS INITIAL APPROACH MIGHT SCARE THEM OFF. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE BELIEVED THAT ANY EFFORT TO INVOLVE THE FRENCH IN THE SPRING REVIEW MECHANISM (PARA 3 REF A) MIGHT DRIVE THEM AWAY FROM ANY COOPERATION IN STANDARDIZATION. HE SAW NO HOPE OF FRANCE JOINING THE UROGROUP (UNTIL THE GAULLISTS ALL DIE) BUT DID NOTE THAT FRANCE "NIBBLES AT THE EDGES" OF EUROGROUP WORK IN THE ARMAMENTS FIELD. ONE INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE FRANCE PLACES ON ARMAMENTS IS THE FACT THAT AMB DE ROSE'S DEFENSE COUNSELLOR IS A COLONEL, WHEREAS HIS ARMAMENTS COUNSELLOR IS CONFIDENTIAL

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A GENERAL OFFICER. THE LATTER MAY WIND UP AS THE FRENCH REP ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE. COMMENT: AMB DE ROSE IS OUT OF TOWN AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL ABOUT 8 SEPTEMBER. IN HIS ABSENCE, WE PLAN TO MEET WITH CHARGE ON AUG 28 OR 29 TO EXPLAIN OUR GENERAL THINKING ON STANDARDIZATION AND EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON FRENCH PARTICIPATION FROM THE OUTSET. WE WILL HOLD MORE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH DE ROSE SOON AFTER HIS RETURN. END COMMENT.

4. TIMING. PECK AGREED IN GENERAL WITH THE IDEA OF HOLDING NAC DISCUSSIONS ON STANDARDIZATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CONSIDERING DE ROSE'S LATE RETURN, HOWEVER, HE RECOMMENDED WE RAISE THE SUBJECT IN THE NAC A LITTLE LATER THAN "MID-SEPTEMBER", DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH TIME DE ROSE NEEDED TO GET UP TO SPEED AND MAKE WHATEVER INROADS HE COULD IN PARIS. IT WOULD ALSO ALLOW AMB BRUCE TO ALERT, IN GENERAL TERMS, THE OTHER ALLIES AT A PERMREPS LUNCHEON, PERHAPS ON SEPT 16. FINALLY IT WOULD ALLOW AMB DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE ACTION IN TIME TO ENLIST HIS SUPPORT INsofar AS POSSIBLE. DE STAERCKE, LIKE DE ROSE, IS OUT OF TOWN AND WILL RETURN ABOUT SEPT 8, COMMENT: WE SUPPORT THIS ADJUSTMENT IN TIMING AND PECK'S REASONING AS WELL. WE SEE VALUE IN AT LEAST BROACHING THE SUBJECT AT A PERMREPS LUNCHEON, IN ORDER TO APPRISE ALL PERMREPS IN GENERAL TERMS OF A MAJOR US INITIATIVE IN ADVANCE OF NAC PRESENTATION. ALSO, THIS WOULD ALLOW PERMREPS WITH WHOM WE HAVE ALREADY TALKED TO SPEAK MORE FREELY AT THE NAC, WITHOUT HAVING TO FEIGN SURPRISE. WE FAVOR BRINGING DE STAERCKE INTO OUR DISCUSSIONS AS WELL. AS PECK COMMENTED, NOTHING OF GREAT VALUE HAPPENS IN THE NAC WITH DE STAERCKE'S SUPPORT. END COMMENT.

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